

Licence types

The length of time you have held an overseas car or rider licence will determine the type of licence that you are eligible to hold.

If you have held your overseas car or rider licence for less than one year, you will only be eligible for a provisional P1 licence.

If you have held a car licence for more than one year but less than three years, you will only be eligible for a provisional P2 car licence.

If you have held a full rider licence for more than one year, you will be eligible for an unrestricted rider licence. See the Road Users' Handbook or visit the RTA website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au for descriptions of the different licence types.



I would like to keep my overseas licence

It is a legal requirement under Australian licensing laws that only one licence can be used for driving in Australia.

Before a NSW licence will be issued, you must present your overseas licence to be made invalid in Australia.

The overseas licence will be returned to you after holepunching plastic or laminated licences or endorsing paper licences. The holepunch or endorsement will be done at a blank area of the licence so that no licence details will be removed.

→ If you would like to talk to us in your language, the Translating and Interpreting Service is available at all RTA motor registries. Ask at the counter.

إذا أردت أن تخاطبنا بلغتك، فخدمات الترجمة الشفوية والكتابية متاحة في جميع مكاتب تسجيل السيارات. استعلم عن ذلك من مكتب الاستقبال.

Jika Anda ingin berbicara dengan kami dalam bahasa Anda, Jasa Penerjemahan dan Juru Bahasa tersedia di semua kantor pendaftaran kendaraan motor. Bertanyalah di loket.

यदि आप हम से हिन्दी में बात करना चाहते हैं तो अनुवाद व दुभाषिया सेवा की सेवायें प्रत्येक मोटर रजिस्ट्री में उपलब्ध हैं। सेवा-कक्ष में काउन्टर से पूछिये।

Ако желите да разговарате са нама на свом матерњем језику, Служба преводилаца и тумача је на располагању у свим канцеларијама за регистрацију возила. Питајте на шалтеру.

Kung nais ninyo kaming maka-usap sa inyong wika, makipag-ugnayan sa Serbisyo sa Pagsasalin sa Iba't-ibang Wika na matatagpuan sa lahat ng mga parehistruhan ng mga sasakyan. Magtanong lang po sa counter.


瀏覽RTA網站www.rta.nsw.gov.au獲取中文版本資料。

本パンフレットの日本語版はRTAのウェブサイトwww.rta.nsw.gov.auにてご利用いただけます。

본 책자의 한국어판이 RTA의 웹사이트인 www.rta.nsw.gov.au 에 마련되어 있습니다.

→ For further enquiries:

 www.rta.nsw.gov.au

 13 22 13 8.30am to 5pm Mon-Fri and 8.30am to 2pm Sat
+612 4925 1805 International
1800 331 412 TTY

The information given in this brochure is a guide only and is subject to change at any time without notice.



Road safety for international drivers

International drivers should view the extensive information about driving safely and legally on NSW roads available on the RTA website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

The Road Users' Handbook, which explains the main road rules in NSW and must be read and understood by applicants for NSW driver licences, is also a useful reference for international drivers or riders.

Bringing your vehicle to New South Wales

For information on bringing your vehicle to NSW contact:

 RTA 13 22 13

 or visit www.rta.nsw.gov.au

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Guide for international drivers

Licensing requirements for drivers from other countries

海外駕駛執照持有人士指南

海外からお越しの運転者の方々へ案内

국제 면허 소지자들을 위한 안내

دليل السائئين الدوليين

Pedoman untuk pengemudi luar negeri

आस्ट्रेलिया मे उन ड्राइवरों के लिये दर्शिका जिनके पास अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय लाइसेंस है

Водич за међународне возаче

Pamatnubay sa mga Nais Magmaneho sa Iba't-ibang Bansa



This brochure contains information for international drivers who are:

- Visiting NSW or
- New residents of NSW.

Visiting driver

I hold a current overseas driver licence, am I a visiting driver?

If you do not hold a permanent resident visa under the *Commonwealth Migration Act 1958* or you are from New Zealand and you have not resided in NSW continuously for more than three months, you are a 'visiting driver'.

Visiting drivers include:

- Tourists.
- Business people on limited-duration visits.
- People visiting friends or relatives.
- Visitors on working holiday visas.
- People studying or working temporarily in NSW.
- International Defence Force personnel and their families on exchange in NSW.

Do I need a NSW licence?

If you are a visiting driver, you are not required to get a NSW licence even if your stay is longer than three months. However, while driving or riding you must carry and hold a current overseas driver licence.

If the licence is not written in English, an International Driving Permit or an English translation must also be carried with the licence.

To drive or ride with your current overseas licence, your visitor status must remain unchanged, you must not be disqualified from driving in NSW or elsewhere, and you must not have had your licence suspended or cancelled or your visiting driver privileges withdrawn.

How can I prove my visiting driver status?

As a visiting driver, you must be able to prove genuine visitor status to NSW Police if required.

Visas, letters from employers or educational institutions, and statements from consulates or diplomatic offices may be used to establish visitor status.

I have an overseas learner licence

If you hold a current learner licence from your country of origin, you can continue to learn to drive in NSW.

You must, however, comply with all NSW road rules (eg, display L plates, be accompanied by an unrestricted Australian licence holder etc) and any relevant restrictions endorsed on your overseas licence.

The Road Users' Handbook explains the NSW road rules and can be obtained from a motor registry or by visiting the RTA website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

I am a visitor, but I would like to get a NSW licence

You may choose to get a NSW driver licence even though you are a visiting driver.

You will need to prove that you have a NSW residential address, provide proof of your identity, present your overseas licence and pass eyesight, knowledge and driving tests as required.

See the section under 'How do I get a NSW licence?' for further information.

New NSW resident

Driving as a permanent resident

If you hold a permanent resident visa under the *Commonwealth Migration Act 1958*, you are not a visiting driver.

You are allowed to drive or ride in NSW on your current overseas licence for a maximum of three months after arriving in Australia. If you are migrating from New Zealand you must obtain a NSW licence within three months of taking up residence in NSW.

To drive with your current overseas licence during the three-month period, you must not be disqualified from driving or riding and your licence must not be suspended or cancelled.

You must get (not just apply for) a NSW licence within this three-month period if you wish to continue to drive or ride.

Please note that if your overseas licence is not in English, you must also carry your International Driving Permit or an English translation with your licence when driving.

How do I get a NSW licence?

You must be aged 17 years or over to get a NSW driver licence.

If you hold an overseas licence to drive or ride (including a learner licence) and want to get a NSW licence, you must go to a RTA motor registry and:

- If your licence is in English, present your overseas licence.
- If your overseas licence is not written in English, provide:
 - your overseas licence and an official translation from the NSW Community Relations Commission or the Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, and
 - where extra licence information is required (for example, about the first issue date or the validity period of the licence or where the type of vehicle authorised to be driven or ridden is not shown) a letter from a relevant consulate or diplomatic office.
- If you cannot produce your overseas licence, provide:
 - a letter from the overseas licence issuing authority confirming your licence details and status, or
 - a letter from a relevant consulate or diplomatic office, based on information received from the overseas licence issuing authority, confirming your licence details and status.

Any letter provided to confirm licence details or status should be in English or have an official English translation as described above.

Before you first attend the motor registry, you may wish to obtain a letter from the driver licence issuing authority (on its letterhead), or from your relevant consulate or diplomatic office, confirming your licence details, including the first issue date.

You must also:

- Prove your NSW address.
- Prove your identity.
- Pass an eyesight test.
- Pass a knowledge test for each class of licence required.
- Pass a driving test for each class of licence required.
- Provide documents proving the first issue date of your licence, if it is not displayed on the licence.



You may not be required to pass a driving or riding test if:

- You have previously held an Australian driver licence which can be verified by the issuing authority, or
- You hold a current New Zealand driver licence, or
- You are applying for a Class C (car) or Class R (rider) licence and you hold a current overseas driver licence, or one that expired within the past 5 years, from a country recognised as having comparable licensing standards to Australia.

At present, these countries are Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States.

Note: The RTA reserves the right to require a driving or riding test. A licence may not be issued unless the RTA is satisfied that the overseas licence is valid.

What if I fail the driving test?

If you fail the driving test, your visiting driver privileges will be withdrawn. You must then get a learner licence that will allow you to drive (while supervised by a licensed driver) and then go for another driving test.